

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multifunctional apparatus comprising:
a management means for managing ID
information determined for each user and address
5 location information associated with the ID
information;
an input means with which the user inputs the
ID information; and
an obtaining means for specifying the address
10 location information managed by the management
means using the inputted ID information,
communicating with an external apparatus via a
predetermined communication medium on the basis of
the address location information, and obtaining
15 communication information residing at an address
location specified by the address location
information.
2. A multifunctional apparatus according to
20 claim 1, further comprising:
a display means for displaying the
communication information obtained by the
obtaining means.
- 25 3. A multifunctional apparatus according to
claim 2,
wherein the display means separately displays

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communication information possessed by the multifunctional apparatus from the beginning and the communication information obtained from the external apparatus.

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4. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein the display means displays communication information possessed by the multifunctional apparatus from the beginning and the communication information obtained from the external apparatus at the same time by combining the possessed communication information and the obtained communication information.

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5. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a selection means for selecting a desired communication destination candidate from the communication information displayed by the display means.

6. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a selection means for selecting a desired communication destination candidate from the communication information displayed by the display

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means.

7. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

5 a selection means for selecting a desired communication destination candidate from the communication information displayed by the display means.

10 8. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the communication information is address information that specifies a communication destination.

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9. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein the address information is address information converted by the external apparatus
20 into a data format that is usable at the multifunctional apparatus.

10. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 1,

25 wherein the communication information is data written in an XML language.

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11. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an authentication means for authenticating the user on the basis of the ID information
5 inputted with the input means and the information managed by the management means.

12. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

10 a control means for controlling the obtaining means and the management means,

wherein when the ID information is inputted with the input means, the control means judges whether or not it is required to obtain the
15 communication information on the basis of a predetermined condition.

13. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 12,

20 wherein the predetermined condition is timing information that determines intervals between operations for obtaining the communication information.

25 14. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein it is possible to define the timing

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information for each user managed by the management means.

15 15. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

an update means for forcibly obtaining the communication information even in a case where the obtaining means is controlled by the control means on the basis of the predetermined condition so as
10 not to obtain the communication information even if the ID information is inputted.

16. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 1,

15 wherein the management means manages the ID information and the address location information by utilizing a nonvolatile storage medium.

17. A multifunctional apparatus capable of
20 communicating with an external apparatus via a predetermined communication medium, comprising:

a management means for managing communication information concerning the external apparatus;

a reception means for receiving, from the
25 external apparatus, a request to obtain the communication information managed by the management means; and

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a transfer means for transferring the communication information to the external apparatus, which has requested the communication information, on the basis of the request.

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18. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a data conversion means for converting, on the basis of the request received by the reception means, the communication information managed by the management means into a data format usable at the external apparatus.

19. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 18,

wherein the communication information obtained as a result of the conversion by the data conversion means is data written in an XML language.

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20. A multifunctional apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein the transfer means transfers the communication information using a predetermined communication protocol.

21. An information processing apparatus

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capable of communicating with a multifunctional
apparatus via a predetermined communication medium,
comprising:

a management means for managing communication
5 information concerning the multifunctional
apparatus;

a reception means for receiving, from the
multifunctional apparatus, a request to obtain the
communication information managed by the
10 management means; and

a transfer means for transferring the
communication information to the multifunctional
apparatus, which has requested the communication
information, on the basis of the request.

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22. An information processing apparatus
according to claim 21, further comprising:

a data conversion means for converting, on
the basis of the request received by the reception
20 means, the communication information managed by
the management means into a data format that is
usable at the multifunctional apparatus.

23. An information processing apparatus
25 according to claim 22,

wherein the communication information
obtained as a result of the conversion by the data

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conversion means is data written in an XML language.

24. An information processing apparatus
5 according to claim 21,

wherein the transfer means transfers the communication information using a predetermined communication protocol.

10 25. A data processing method comprising:
a management step for managing ID information determined for each user and address location information associated with the ID information;
an input step in which the user inputs the ID
15 information; and

an obtaining step for specifying the address location information managed in the management step using the inputted ID information, communicating with an external apparatus via a
20 predetermined communication medium on the basis of the address location information, and obtaining communication information residing at an address location specified by the address location information.

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26. A data processing method according to claim 25, further comprising:

a display step for displaying the communication information obtained in the obtaining step.

5 27. A data processing method according to claim 26,

 wherein in the display step, communication information possessed by the multifunctional apparatus from the beginning and the communication
10 information obtained from the external apparatus are separately displayed.

 28. A data processing method according to claim 26,

15 wherein in the display step, communication information possessed by the multifunctional apparatus from the beginning and the communication information obtained from the external apparatus are combined with each other and displayed at the
20 same time.

 29. A data processing method according to claim 26, further comprising:

 a selection step for selecting a desired
25 communication destination candidate from the communication information displayed in the display step.

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30. A data processing method according to claim 27, further comprising:

5 a selection step for selecting a desired communication destination candidate from the communication information displayed in the display step.

31. A data processing method according to claim 28, further comprising:

10 a selection step for selecting a desired communication destination candidate from the communication information displayed in the display step.

15 32. A data processing method according to claim 25,

wherein the communication information is address information that specifies a communication destination.

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33. A data processing method according to claim 32,

wherein the address information is address information converted by the external apparatus
25 into a data format that is usable at the multifunctional apparatus.

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34. A data processing method according to
claim 25,

wherein the communication information is data
written in an XML language.

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35. A data processing method according to
claim 25, further comprising:

an authentication step for authenticating the
user on the basis of the ID information inputted
10 in the input step and the information managed in
the management step.

36. A data processing method according to
claim 25, further comprising:

15 a control step for controlling the obtaining
step and the management step,

wherein when the ID information is inputted
in the input step, the control step judges whether
or not it is required to obtain the communication
20 information on the basis of a predetermined
condition.

37. A data processing method according to
claim 36,

25 wherein the predetermined condition is timing
information that determines intervals between
operations for obtaining the communication

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information.

38. A data processing method according to claim 37,

5 wherein it is possible to define the timing information for each user managed in the management step.

39. A data processing method according to
10 claim 36, further comprising:

an update step for forcibly obtaining the communication information even in a case where the obtaining step is controlled in the control step on the basis of the predetermined condition so as
15 not to obtain the communication information even if the ID information is inputted.

40. A data processing method for one of a multifunctional apparatus and an information
20 processing apparatus which are capable of communicating with an external apparatus via a predetermined communication medium, the method comprising:

a management step for managing communication
25 information concerning the external apparatus;

a reception step for receiving, from the external apparatus, a request to obtain the

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communication information managed in the
management step; and

a transfer step for transferring the
communication information to the external
5 apparatus, which has requested the communication
information, on the basis of the request.

41. A data processing method according to
claim 40, further comprising:

10 a data conversion step for converting, on the
basis of the request received in the reception
step, the communication information managed in the
management step into a data format that is usable
at the external apparatus.

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42. A data processing method according to
claim 41,

wherein the communication information
obtained as a result of the conversion in the data
20 conversion step is data written in an XML language.

43. A data processing method according to
claim 40,

wherein in the transfer step, the
25 communication information is transferred using a
predetermined communication protocol.

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44. A control program executable by a multifunctional apparatus, comprising:

a management step for managing ID information determined for each user and address location

5 information associated with the ID information;

an input step in which the user inputs the ID information; and

an obtaining step for specifying the address location information managed in the management
10 step using the inputted ID information,
communicating with an external apparatus via a predetermined communication medium on the basis of the address location information, and obtaining communication information residing at an address
15 location specified by the address location information.

45. A control program according to claim 44, further comprising:

20 a display step for displaying the communication information obtained in the obtaining step.

46. A control program according to claim 45,
25 wherein in the display step, communication information possessed by the multifunctional apparatus from the beginning and the communication

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information obtained from the external apparatus
are separately displayed.

47. A control program according to claim 45,
5 wherein in the display step, communication
information possessed by the multifunctional
apparatus from the beginning and the communication
information obtained from the external apparatus
are combined with each other and displayed at the
10 same time.

48. A control program according to claim 45,
further comprising:

a selection step for selecting a desired
15 communication destination candidate from the
communication information displayed in the display
step.

49. A control program according to claim 46,
20 further comprising:

a selection step for selecting a desired
communication destination candidate from the
communication information displayed in the display
step.

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50. A control program according to claim 47,
further comprising:

a selection step for selecting a desired communication destination candidate from the communication information displayed in the display step.

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51. A control program according to claim 44, wherein the communication information is address information that specifies a communication destination.

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52. A control program according to claim 51, wherein the address information is address information converted by the external apparatus into a data format that is usable at the multifunctional apparatus.

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53. A control program according to claim 44, wherein the communication information is data written in an XML language.

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54. A control program according to claim 44, further comprising:

an authentication step for authenticating the user on the basis of the ID information inputted in the input step and the information managed in the management step.

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55. A control program according to claim 44,
further comprising:

a control step for controlling the obtaining
step and the management step,

5 wherein when the ID information is inputted
in the input step, the control step judges whether
or not it is required to obtain the communication
information on the basis of a predetermined
condition.

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56. A control program according to claim 55,
wherein the predetermined condition is timing
information that determines intervals between
operations for obtaining the communication
15 information.

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57. A control program according to claim 56,
wherein it is possible to define the timing
information for each user managed in the
20 management step.

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58. A control program according to claim 55,
further comprising:

an update step for forcibly obtaining the
25 communication information even in a case where the
obtaining step is controlled in the control step
on the basis of the predetermined condition so as

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not to obtain the communication information even if the ID information is inputted.

59. A control program executable by one of a multifunctional apparatus and an information processing apparatus that are capable of communicating with an external apparatus via a predetermined communication medium, the program product comprising:

10 a management step for managing communication information concerning the external apparatus;

a reception step for receiving, from the external apparatus, a request to obtain the communication information managed in the management step; and

15 a transfer step for transferring the communication information to the external apparatus, which has requested the communication information, on the basis of the request.

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60. A control program according to claim 59, further comprising:

a data conversion step for converting, on the basis of the request received in the reception step, the communication information managed in the management step into a data format that is usable at the external apparatus.

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61. A control program according to claim 60,
wherein the communication information
obtained as a result of the conversion in the data
conversion step is data written in an XML language.

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62. A control program according to claim 59,
wherein in the transfer step, the
communication information is transferred using a
predetermined communication protocol.

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63. A computer-readable recording medium
storing the control program according to claim 44.

64. A computer-readable recording medium
15 storing the control program according to claim 59.

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